



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

According to newspaper accounts, a senior citizen club in Florida was recently raided by police because the seniors were conducting a bingo game, and had not obtained a license to do so. Since the type of bingo conducted in senior clubs is typically a recreational game, and is not operated for profit or fund-raising purposes, it is felt that the bingo act should be amended in this state to permit senior citizens clubs to legally hold recreational bingo games.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would exempt "recreational bingo" from the licensing requirements of the Traxler-McCauley-Law-Bowman Bingo Act provided that it was conducted by a senior citizens club or group consisting of at least 15 members, each 60 years of age or older, and that the following conditions were met:

- The bingo was conducted solely for the amusement and recreation of the members and guests of the club, and not for fund-raising.
- Only active members of the club or group participated in the operation of the bingo.
- The bingo was conducted between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 midnight.
- The club or group had applied for and received an identification number from the Lottery Bureau to permit the purchase or rental of bingo equipment from a licensed supplier.
- Players were charged not more than 25 cents for a bingo card, and the aggregate retail value of all prizes and merchandise awarded on a single occasion did not exceed \$100.
- All revenue from the bingo was used for prizes and reasonable expenses incurred in operating the bingo, and no person was compensated for participating in the conduct of the bingo.

Under the bill, the bureau could issue an identification number to any senior citizens club or group that submitted a written statement certifying that it met the above requirements, and that the information included on the application was true, correct, and complete and had been signed by the presiding officer of the club. All changes to the club or group that might affect its qualification would have to be registered in writing with the bureau.

MCL 432.105a

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would result in a slight revenue loss to the state. However, no figures are available at this time. (9-26-90)

PERMIT RECREATIONAL BINGO FOR SENIORS

**House Bill 6060 as introduced
First Analysis (9-26-90)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Joe Young, Jr.
Committee: State Affairs**

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Many senior citizens obtain a great deal of pleasure from the inexpensive bingo games that are typically conducted in senior citizens clubs. These games constitute a harmless, inexpensive form of entertainment and, as long as the games are not organized for profit, should be exempt from the present license fee requirements.

POSITIONS:

The Bureau of State Lottery has no position on the bill. (9-26-90)

H.B. 6060 (9-26-90)